



The Friends of
Thringstone



'Working together to improve our village'

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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2012 AT THRINGSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Nita Pearson, Brenda Simpson, Bernard Lee, Roy Hill, Ron Hill, Geoff Walker, Janet Stephenson, Ann Petty

Apologies: Pam Porter, Rowena Summers, Ray Woodward, Tam Bream, Sue Colledge, Fran Skinner, Paul and Lis Muller

Decisions and discussions:

- Litter pick date of 2nd June to be rearranged The meeting decided that it is important for the village to be looking clean and tidy for the Jubilee weekend. It will not be possible to organize a full litter pick because the Council says they cannot pick up collected rubbish over that weekend. They concentrate their efforts over bank holiday periods to Coalville and Ashby town centres. Please can everyone tidy up their own areas during the week prior to the extended bank holiday at the beginning of June and use their own black bins? Nita said that she was finding a lot of **food waste dumped** around the village. In one area, over the last month, the remnants of pizzas, BBQ spare ribs, KFC family buckets and Mcdonald's items have all been found and removed. These were all dumped within yards of a litter bin. There have also been a lot of incidences of green glass beer bottles being smashed and left on grassed areas which have been cleared up as best as possible, but please be careful when out walking with dogs and children. There is a lot of **glass** by the Henson's Lane sign on Loughborough Road which needs clearing up, and there is also broken glass from a car on the facing corner. Bernard Lee



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commented that he thought the portions being served at the chip shop were too large and people were unable to finish them and were throwing away what was left. He had spoken to Ruby's and asked them if they could serve a smaller portion at a reduced price. Litter from the chip shop also impacts on bins on The Green also being full and occasionally overflowing.

- Meeting attendances - The question of the low numbers attending the regular monthly meetings was raised by Roy Hill, who felt that there should be some thought as to where the group was going. Should the date or time change to get more people? Geoff Walker and Janet Stevenson thought that most members seemed quite happy to pay their subscriptions and be informed by the minutes and the Bauble about what was going on in the village. Some volunteered by delivering the Bauble, joining in litter picks, gardening, helping in flowerbed watering rotas, attending events such as the recent history evening and the Award presentation, but did not want to come to what they perceived to be a 'committee meeting' every month.

Nita pointed out that the group has its highest membership ever, and was set up as 'Friends'. This means it is **member driven rather than committee driven** and as such the monthly meeting definitely wasn't a committee meeting. It is for this reason we have a section on decisions and discussions. Meetings are for members to come to, find out what is happening, have a chat and a drink with friends, and interact in a social setting. Nita acknowledged that numbers this year so far had been low, but she knew where

various

people were and why they were not present. Some wondered whether it would be better to have

fewer meetings which are more topic focused with a speaker or film but this could cut across what

the centre offer on their film club nights. Numbers at event litter picks have also been low from a membership standpoint and these are widely publicized both internal to

the group

and external to it and organising 'event meetings' would take more organization and promotion.

Everybody knows that our monthly meetings are always the 1st Thursday of a month.

Reducing regular meetings could take away the opportunity for regular discussion and information exchange, reduce the opportunity for members to talk to local councillors, share information and raise matters of concern personally. It could also take away the whole

community

element. Bernard said he liked the meetings as they were.

For information, the **role of the Committee**, from our inception, has always been background organizational matters. This includes seeking funding and doing funding bids for our planting etc., organising finances and a business plan per year, partnership work by meeting with other agencies, including environmental agencies, to better the village, organizing publicity to promote things happening in the village, writing and organising the printing of publications, also aimed at promoting the village (including writing newsletters and their distribution), organising litter pick events with other groups, organizing walks,



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organising other events both of our own and with others (like the church at Christmas with the Carols Round The Tree) and providing support to people involved in regular volunteering, such as gardening work etc. which the group has undertaken to do.

This may deviate from other charity groups and organisations and how they are run, but follows the 'Friends Groups' template.

It was also acknowledged that it is getting increasingly difficult to find people willing to serve on the committee.

It was left that the situation would be discussed again, when people had had the chance to think about the way forward. All members who have any views on this or any other matters to do with the village are very welcome to come at 6.45pm on 5th April in the Community Centre.

Chair's report

Letters Received:

None this month.

Emails Received:

- From Voluntary Action Leicestershire asking us to sign up to their new compact agreement for 2012. Done.
- From Leicestershire County Council's Waste Action team asking if any of our members wish to sign up to be a waste action volunteer. This would mean a person agreeing to volunteer for 30 hours in 12 months. Further information from 0116 3057005.
- From Snibston about a private view of their Drawn To Danger war art exhibition sent to interested parties.
- From County Council inviting us to an Access Forum meeting at County Hall on 28th Feb. Declined.

Emails Sent:

- To committee and others regarding on going issues
- To FOGDP asking if there is a possibility of a notice board going near the Bull's Head giving directions to the priory, and offering details on dog fouling fines, fire warnings etc. Being considered as and when
- To Police asking if they do fire safety with the fire service at senior schools as well as Junior schools, following request. Various visits done apparently, although some fire starters in the woods are very young locally.
- To NWLDC about apparently abandoned property and the state it was left in. House is now up for sale. Also reported abandoned and untaxed car outside same property to County Council which has now gone.

Promotion

- Confirmation from Rural Community Council that our two walks will be featured in their 2012 Guided Walks and Events brochure.
- NWLDC are going to place an editorial regarding walks in the area and have agreed to include details of our May walk with their own publicity
- Our walks this year are included in the Guided Walks In and Around Charnwood 2012 brochure. The Grace Dieu group's walks are also included in that publication, which is free and available from Charnwood Borough Council on 01509 634594.



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- The National Forest Walk Festival brochure is now out, and again contains details of our walks and our group and its contact details. 20,000 of these have been printed, and are sent to various places within a 100 mile radius.

Other

- Attended police surgery on 14th Feb to discuss various issues previously raised with police. Attendance to this surgery was low, which could be a good thing!

Treasurer's Report

FEB FIGURES

1st Feb	£3,648.23		
Income		expenditure	
booth book	£ 3.00	admin (ink)	£ 46.66
Raffle income	£ 10.00	insurance	£ 115.81
total income	£ 13.00	total exp	£ 162.47
		Total funds end Feb	£ 3,498.76

The insurance premium has been paid this month - and it is considerably more than the £75 premium last year. Nita explained this was because they now charge additional premium based on the amount of projected events the group is likely to do, including litter picks and heritage events. This year so far (since 1 June 2011), we have received £170 more than we have spent. However, we will soon be receiving the bill for the graveyard booklet printing (approx £300).

I must also remind you all that it is the 'year end' at the end of March and that this year's figures will therefore not be a true annual reflection, as it will only be a '10 month' year. I know that there is £9.50 due to be given to me from publications that were reported at the last meeting, but it would be great to have some more income in March so that we can get near to breaking even over this shortened year.

NB To make the year's accounts as accurate as possible, please pass any bills or income to the treasurer before 31/3/12

Publications report – Roy Hill

There have been no sales of our publications this month. One copy of the Charles Booth booklet has been sold by Nita and she has paid the proceeds to the Treasurer direct. Stocks therefore remain as reported last month.

Nita had brought the new **Graveyard Booklet** which the group has produced. So far we have received 75 out of 370 ordered. Nita has done press releases to the media informing them of the new publication, and the Coalville Times have asked for a copy of the booklet, as they intend to feature this in future weeks. The booklets will be available at the Church and our usual outlets for donations of at least £1.50. The money raised will be used for the Charles Booth grave restoration fund. There was considerable discussion on who is responsible for the conservation of the grave – usually it is the family, but this is complicated because the grave is a listed monument.



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Web report

All minutes are up to date and the webmaster has put on the website our twitter and facebook links. He is working on other updates.

Arts and Community Report

From Dave Bamford, new President of **Thringstone Bowls Club**.

- They have aims and inspirations to work more with local groups, churches and schools. They have a current membership of about 50 people and want to get a **junior section** for kids of 10-18 organised. They have talked to Gail Rushton at NWLDC on this, and also with Annette Kendrick from Leicestershire Sports who are helping the club with various things.
- They want to get 2 of their existing level 1 **coaches** trained up to be able to work with school children. They are, however, trained to offer coaching to adults, and beginners who wish to learn to bowl are most welcome to come along. Ideally, they want to have 3 coaches. Anybody who wants to learn bowls - have a chat with Dave at the Club.
- They are applying for a **Clubmark** accreditation
- **Sport England estimates** that only 19% of people in Thringstone take part in 3 lots of 30 minutes of exercise per week, putting us in the bottom 30% in the UK. Furthermore, Thringstone is in the bottom 10% in Leicestershire with the most obese 10-11 year olds, 20.6% being classified as obese.
- They are applying to **Sport England** for £40-50K to do various improvements at the club - they have already spend £10k of their own money on clubhouse refurbishment and new green, but want new changing areas with disability access, floodlighting so that people can play later into the evening and CCTV coverage. They also want a covered canopy over the front of the clubhouse and to get some outdoor benches so supporters and visiting teams are able to have a seat with a protected covering. They further want to pave an area round the green to improve their health and safety regulations.
- They need to get **letters of support** from local people and groups as part of the gauging local support and need to show they have matched funding. Matched funding in this instance can also cover in-kind funding.
- Dave was not aware that the club had been asked to be part of the **Jubilee celebrations**, but he is now going to talk to the management committee in 2 weeks time and see if we can arrange a challenge match with FoT and perhaps other groups during the Jubilee period.

He has subsequently sent an email with all sorts of extra information and on the basis of that would like the group to send letters of support. Nita is going to send one from the group as a whole, but encourages others who would like to support the bowls club to consider doing their own.

17 March Litter Pick with FoT. Meet at 10am at The Green. All welcome.

From the Panto group – '**Cinderella**' was seen by more people than last year's panto in spite of there being fewer evening performances. It was good to see all three matinees (including the 'first-ever' Sunday matinee) full to capacity. The society was very pleased to donate £3,500 to Thringstone House Community Centre and also £500 - the proceeds of the raffles – to



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their chosen charity, Leukaemia Support. The **next performance** will be of the hugely successful musical Stepping Out. The show will run for FIVE evening performances from Tuesday 22nd May to Saturday 26th May, starting at 7.30pm each evening. There will NOT be a matinee performance for this show.

Ticket prices are:

ADULTS - £7.00 Tuesday to Thursday, £8.00 Friday and Saturday

CHILDREN - £6.00 Tuesday to Thursday, £7.00 Friday and Saturday

OAP CONCESSIONS - £6.00 Tuesday to Thursday only.

Tickets can be reserved now – email tickets@tpads.org.uk or telephone 01530 834575

Other Community Centre events

21 April – **The Honey Man**. Tickets from the centre. Starts at 7.45pm and is a play about growing up and growing old.

St Andrew's Church

5 March – **Ladies Group** at St Andrew's, 7pm. Speaker is The Abbot from Mt. St. Bernard Abbey

The **SKIDS club** recommences on 11th March at 10.30am not as previously mentioned.

George and Dragon

9 and 10 March - **Cider festival** with entertainment on the Friday night and Sire (Soul and Motown)

Saturday night

17 March - **Elvis Tribute**

18 March - **Mothers Day**. Please book your table on 222282.

24 March - **Mojo Hand**

7 April - **Natalie Nightingale**

23 April - **St Georges Day celebration.**

A recent fundraiser at the pub made £170 for a Football team.

Others

3 and 4 March – **Hermitage Leisure Centre** – Robot Wars - 12 noon – 3pm. Tickets £8 per child.

Capelli's on Main Street reopens 6th March and will have a beauty salon as part of its facilities

7th March – **Lady Jane, Whitwick** – Live Bluegrass music first Wednesday of every month at The Lady Jane, Whitwick. Free admission. 8.30pm start.

10 March 7pm - St John The Baptist, Belton – **Moira Male Voice Choir** in aid of the RBL Poppy Appeal.

Grace Dieu Priory's picnic and concert is taking place on 30th June.

22 March – **Hermitage FM Quiz Night** at Radio Station's Coffee Lounge. £3.50 each to include soup and a roll. There will also be a raffle.

30 March – Hermitage Leisure Centre - **Curry and Quiz night**. 7pm start £2.50 each, maximum 6 per team, and cash prize for winning team.



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History report

BBC Learning is putting together **Britain's First Photo Album**, using photographs which will air on BBC 2 this month. The idea is to show photographs taken by Francis Frith, a 19th century photographer, who unfortunately didn't come to our immediate area, but did go to Shepshed. The BBC is encouraging other areas, like ours, to put on events or at least ask for photographs of the village in earlier times. We feel that we have all the archive photographs from the turn of the 20th century that we are likely to get, but still encourage **anybody with other photographs** they are willing to let us borrow and scan to come forward.

There are two new videos on **East Midlands Oral History Archive's You Tube channel**.

Students at the Centre for Urban History have created a 'vodcast' in which Dr Julie Attard talks about 'Rebuilding Germany After 1945' - <http://youtu.be/luTTGD6U4Yg> - while EMOHA's Colin Hyde tells you about a controversial town planner in 'Promenades and Ringroads - Konrad Smigielski and 1960s Leicester' - <http://youtu.be/GHjrFv4FMoM>

This year is the **40th anniversary of Ugandan Asians** arriving in the UK having been expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin. In Leicester there will be various events during the year to mark this, one of the first being 'Ugandan Asian Story' at the Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre on 10th March from 11am-4pm. For details of this and an exhibition at New Walk Museum later in the year, have a look here - <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/ugandanasianstory/>

It's History Fair time in Leicestershire! At Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse, LE12 8TX, on Sunday 25 March 2012, 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, sponsored by the Leicestershire Archaeological & Historical Society. EMOHA will be there alongside another 48 local history stalls; Archaeology Roadshow - bring your own coins, metalwork or pots; literature sales; History Mini-Talks throughout the day; History Tours of the Hall; children's activities in the Cellars or Victorian Schoolroom; visits to Woodhouse church to view medieval stained glass. Details are here - <http://www.le.ac.uk/lahs/HISTORYFAIR.html>

EMOHA is delighted to be sharing office space with Dr Julie Attard of Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust. The Trust is currently preparing for a **major community based history project** in the Charnwood area of Leicestershire.

For more details about this project and the Trust contact Dr Attard on jad17@le.ac.uk or have a look at <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/leicestershire>

Ann has spoken to County Hall about an **archeological report** commissioned by someone in Brook Lane to find out if the report has been received, but it hasn't as yet.

Nita was asked to do a belated report on the film and slide session we did in September as part of the **Reel to Reel** event on behalf of the Media Archive for Central England, and has sent a glowing report.

Ann has received copies of the audio recordings made as part of the **Village Voices project**.

Ann, with the help of Jimmy Francis, has made up **two folders on WW1 casualties** connected to the village, with details of people who were born here and who worked here. Nita has been through the military records stored on www.ancestry.co.uk and run off lots of **army records** for these people which add to the information being collected. Not all military records from WW1 survived, as many were burnt in WW2 bombing raids. There are, therefore, details of some soldiers which we have been unable to trace.



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Councillors' report

February at the Council is always **budget month**. For those fiscally minded amongst you (and who isn't) I am delighted to let you know that Council Tax will not increase this year.

Unfortunately for Council Tenants (and there are many in Thringstone) there will be an **average rent rise** of 8.25%, which is much higher than the national average. This is an issue which Dave and I voted against but unfortunately the increase was carried by the administration.

Outside of budget matters we have seen the granting of planning permission for the **demolition of the Rose and Crown** and the building of a convenience store in its place. I have been advised by the developers that they hope to have the shop open within a year. Obviously feelings ran strong on this matter from both objectors (particularly those concerned about the current retail offering) and those in favour. I truly hope that we will see the clearing of an eyesore and the potential for a number of new jobs in the village – something I am sure we would all agree on being beneficial.

In other planning matters you will be aware that an application for a **telephone mast** at the top of Talbot Street was recently turned down. I have now been advised by the Council that the applicants have lodged a formal appeal to this decision. Further information will follow as it becomes available.

Dave and I have also had meetings with **Thringstone Bowls Club**. Whilst I am conscious that Nita has reported on this matter elsewhere, it is fantastic to see and hear that the Bowls Club have such ambitious plans for expansion of both facilities and members and not least in reaching out to our community as a real force for good. I would urge anyone interested in becoming a member (or anyone who would just like to give Bowls a go) to contact the club for more information.

Aside from the above, Dave and I have conducted case work at several addresses around the village.

Leon Spence - Telephone: 07828 194768 - E-mail: cllrleonspence@gmail.com - Web: www.leonspence.com

The inquiry into the proposed Stephenson Green development on **Whitwick's Green Wedge** finished yesterday. It is now up to the report writers to get to work and submit something to Eric Pickles for his decision. This is likely to take up until the summer.

Police Report from Jim Sorrell

Theft from motor vehicle = 1. This has a suspect and after reporting it the aggrieved has stated that she does not want to engage the police to push this forward. There is some talk of the suspect being her ex partner.

Harassment and/or assault = 1 This is by phone and there is a suspect that is being dealt with.
Thefts = 1 tools from the shed suspect is being dealt with by police.

2 bench from a front garden - no lines of enquiry. This is from Melrose Road, and the bench was a sturdy wooden bench with attached seating, so would not have been easy to remove. That is all the crimes that have been reported to the police for the last 30 days. This is very good really, and myself and James were pleased with this.

Not included in the report were issues regarding a car which Nita had seen and has been keyed in writing all down the side and on the bonnet. The lady concerned had told Nita this



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happened when the car was outside her house on the Woodside Estate and may be related to an earlier incident in the village. The police have been informed and there is an incident number. Ron Hill reported to the meeting that he had just seen **motor bikes** being ridden dangerously from Booth Road across Loughborough Road to Elgin Walk, travelling towards the woods. They had nearly knocked over a dog walker who had been very shaken by the incident. Ron had encouraged him to report the incident to the police. All such incidents should be reported so that the police can build up a more accurate picture of what is happening in the village.

From Previous Minutes

Gardening and environment

There have been reports about the number of properties between Elgin and Shrewsbury Walks that keep **rubbish** in their back gardens in black bags. Councillors are aware.

NWLDC has arranged to have the **bagged dog waste** at the end of the Sustrans path on Grace Dieu Road cleared on Friday. Their new signs re '**taking dog waste home**' are being finalised before going to print. They will email details to us once they have the final draft. Hopefully it will have the desired effect but if not then it maybe they'll relocate the bin from The Green like we discussed when we met up last time.

Nita is still hopeful that local cadets will be coming along to the **litter pick on 17th March**, and intends to contact the captain of the group to ascertain numbers, as we would like to treat them to chips from Ruby's afterwards, and obviously they want to know how many to cater for other than their usual Saturday lunchtime trade.

31st March is **World Wildlife Fund's Earth hour event**, where people are encouraged to turn off anything electrical at 8.30pm for an hour. One community is being offered £1,000 to lead on the switch off in their area, and there is a form to complete if anybody feels this is something they want to do.

AOB

Green Wedge Public Enquiry

Roy Hill reported on his attendance at the Public Enquiry into the development of the Whitwick Green Wedge. He was not happy with what he had seen and heard. He felt that the Whitwick Action Group had done an excellent job in presenting their case, and said that about 20 people from the group had turned up to each day of the enquiry, but had been seriously let down by the Council's Planning process. His opinion was that their objections were unlikely to be upheld. He further thought that the planning process was a complete mess and its work was not being publicised.

He understood that there was a government bonus for each house built which would add up to a very large sum of money running into millions which, in his opinion, he felt the District Council would more than likely 'waste' in Coalville Town Centre.

Pharmacy & Surgery in Thringstone?

Bernard asked if anyone had heard about a proposed pharmacy and GP surgery in Thringstone near to the new houses by the football field? A friend of his had received a letter about the loss of part of her garden. No one else had any knowledge of this, but it would be raised with the Councillors, who were at an AGM which is why they were not present.



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Jubilee Events for the summer – update

It is understood that Tithe Close are having a street party. The next Jubilee meeting to discuss events is on 7th March at the George and Dragon at 7pm.

The next Friends of Thringstone meeting is 5th April 2012. 6.45 at Thringstone House Community Centre



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